

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1 and 27 are currently amended, and claims 2-3 are canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 12, 16-20 and 26-27 are pending, and claims 2-3, 6, 11, 13-15 and 21-25 have been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 16-20 and the indicated allowability of claims 3 and 27 if rewritten in independent form. Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form, so it is believed that claim 27 now is allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takizawa (US 6,152,266). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features recited in claims 2 and 3, which the examiner considers allowable.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Deligny (US 4,693,137). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reason noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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